# FBI Chief Favors Gun Curbs

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NEW YORK, July 21 (UPI)—Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray has announced he favors a "complete ban" on the sale of cheap handguns known as "Saturday night specials," and the licensing and registration of other firearms.

Gray's predecessor, the late J. Edgar Hoover, also supported bans on mail order firearm purchases and said interstate firearms control legislation should be enforced. Hoover said in 1967 he felt the thrust should at the local level, with strong federal assistance.

The FBI director's comments were reported by the New York Daily News in a story from Washington. He emphasized that he was speaking only for himself and not for the Nixon administration.

"I'm dead set against those guns," Gray said of the cheap handguns. "They ought to be banned totally, completely and thoroughly."

He said firearms have been used in so many homicides "that we ought to endeavor to control them." Citing constitutional guarantees of the right to bear arms, he said he doubted it would be possible to ban firearms completely. "But that does not mean that we cannot regulate firearms," he said.

Gray said in response to a question: "I personally have in mind the licensing and registration of firearms."

On another subject, Gray was quoted as saying the FBI does not engage in political surveillance but that certain radicals need to be observed "because of the violence they do."